

The approach to Hilo over the elevated table-land that extends from Mauna Kea to the ocean, is through luxuriant cane-fields, by green lawns, tan patches, groves of plantains and bananas, while here and there are scattered clumps of mangoes and pride of China, waving over neat half-palis, or more substantial and comfortable farm houses. It is a scene of rural beauty, with tinting of the ground and picturesque. The sea surging in a thunder-voice against the lofty and precipitous cliffs, or murmuring among the rocky coves and inlets; the deep and narrow gorges where silvery streams murmur in waterfalls, or leap in cascades; the lofty domes of the great mountains bounding the vision on the right, down from which sweeps the vast, variegated and verdure-covered plain to the sea, all combine to render it a landscape that will fix itself upon the memory like a picture of beauty, with ever fresh and glowing colors. In front is a deep indentation in the land, which extends and terminates in a beautiful bay, on whose serene shores wave the ocean palm and the tall banana, with an air of tropic loveliness and luxuriance; among the deep green groves, the white houses glitter in the declining sun, and the churches lift their spires to heaven. Reflecting the crimson clouds over the gate of the sun's farewell, the quiet bay sleeps like a giant rose-leaf on an emerald plain. Two vessels with furled sails are lying quietly at anchor, and a peace and tranquil beauty rest upon the scene, as the shadows of twilight fall over it like a veil. But the moon comes out under a white cloud, like that the stubborn Alp gazed upon at the siege of Corinth, but large enough for him to love and love forever, as it passed. Her soft silvery light gave new tints to the scene and new outlines of loveliness. It lit with glory the lovely bay, and our eyes traced the long column of light on the rippling waves, far out until its base was lost in the deep blue sea. How beautiful is our mother earth! Ever smiling, glad and joyous, ever decked in robes of beauty, grand in her simplicity, majestic in her great zone of ocean, her crown of snow-clad mountains, and stem and mild in her deserts, rocks and glees! Prolific in reproduction, she makes life spring beneath the tread of time, and renews and decks herself with flowers, faster than his scythe can mow them! We derive our existence and draw our sustenance from her, sleep upon her bosom, and after our final repose return our dust to her. In loving earth and all that is beautiful and pure in nature, we worship God!

We threaded the streets of Hilo by moonlight, and enjoyed the majesty of repose that seemed to rest upon everything, except the murmuring waves, which died in music along the shore. Greeted with generous hospitality, we were welcomed and made "at home." Exhilarated and refreshed in a manner most appreciable by way-farers, we arose next morning, and examined the port of Hilo and environs.

Hilo, the second town in population and commercial importance in the Hawaiian Islands, is situated on a beautiful bay of the same name, on the windward side of Hawaii. The bay of Hilo was formerly called Waikae, and frequently Byron's bay, but the present native name, being to the "manor born," and more appropriate, has by general consent superseded the other. It is in north latitude 19° 45' and 155° 06' west longitude from Greenwich. The anchorage is good and the harbor spacious. The crescent shore slopes to the water's edge, where it terminates in a regular sandy beach. The boat landing is excellent.

The approach to Hilo from the sea affords a beautiful view of the most tropical and verdant spot in the islands. The vegetation and trees are greener and more luxuriant in foliage, owing to frequent showers, than in any other locality. The gardens are luxuriant, the flowers in eternal bloom, and the plantains and bananas grow taller than anywhere else it has been our lot to see them, and many groves of these look like tall and tangled forests. They are loaded with fruit. We noticed the mango, the orange, the tamarind and other fruit trees, but from some cause they did not seem so productive as those of Lahaina or Honolulu. The cabbage would wake dreams of your trout in "der faderland," and cucumbers, and other garden vegetables flourish well, and few situations on the islands promise more ample returns to horticultural and agricultural industry than the rich, sloping plain in and around Hilo.

The climate is regular, the earth is blessed with copious rains and fertilizing dews. The hand of industry is not paralyzed by drouth, and the people escape the feuds and warfare over water for irrigation, which has been the source of so much trouble in the drier and less favored islands of the group.

The population of Hilo proper at the last census, as near as can be ascertained, was 1750. Of this, the active business portion is composed of foreigners. The Americans are most numerous; besides the missionaries and their descendants, the highest officials of the city and most of the sugar planters belong to the genus Yankee. They are all alike characterized by kindness, urbanity and hospitality. There is no greater spirit of liberty in the islands than among the American residents of Hilo, and this is exhibited without limitation and on all occasions. May their shadows never grow less, while their purses elongate. The American population is about 75 of all ages. Equal in number to the Americans—if not greater—the Chinese constitute a very important portion of the population of Hilo. They are generally of a superior class, mostly merchants and men of business, active and energetic. The first Chinese emigrants assimilated and married with the natives; they became a part of the permanent population, and in the rising generation, there is a large proportion of mixed blood, descendants of Hawaiians and Chinese. They are handsome, quick and intelligent, especially the female portion. We particularly remarked their aptitude in speaking English and their general sprightliness. Of the Europeans, we found

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**THE HISTORY OF HILLO IS LOST IN THE CLOUDS OF TRADITION.**  
It was anciently the seat of sovereign power in the District of the same name, and continued to be until after the death of Keoua, its last sovereign, when the whole island was governed by Kamehameha I. Its former population was much greater than it is now, although there are fewer evidences of a dense population in ancient times than in any other portion of the Hawaiian Islands. Indeed, we did not see an ancient temple, or any of those grand works of the old natives, which are seen in Kona and Kohala. The harbor of Hilo, with little expense, could be made one of the safest and most commodious in the Pacific. By constructing a break-water on the reef, northward from the point beyond Waiakoa, the harbor would be perfectly safe, landlocked and sheltered at all times. This could be easily effected by building a tram rail-way, and by means of cars, which could transport the abundant hard, volcanic material near at hand, upon the reef. It is but a short distance to immense beds of basaltic, vitreous and vesicular

lava, which would resist the action of water for ages. The convict labor of the island would be sufficient to accomplish the work in a few years, and render Hilo a Port, where all the shipping of the Pacific could ride securely at anchor. It is now more capacious than any other bay or harbor on the island, and it is not subject to violent gales from any quarter.

We climbed the volcanic hills beyond the school-house of Punahoa, back of Hilo, through tall, wiry grass, waist high. It was dense and massive as an East Indian or Central African jungle, and impassable for a horse. Although the most beautiful look-out and commanding the most extensive view of any point near the coast on the Hawaiian Islands, there is not a path-way leading to it. It requires long extremities, strong flexors and extensors and resolution and perseverance to wade through it. We, however, made the ascent and were well rewarded for our trouble. Hilo lay below us in all its loveliness of rural beauty, a regular crescent around its symmetrical bay, in whose quiet waters three vessels were at anchor; we seemed overlooking a vast irregular and diversified plain extending from the sea on the East to the mountain domes, forty miles distant on the West, and lost in the distance to the North and South. It was dotted with groves, sown with forests and cleaved with gushing rivers. Between the belts of forest were green, grassy plains, with occasional farm houses and native cottages. Immediately below us and beyond the dashing stream that flows into Hilo Bay, is the Sugar Plantation of Anauulu, belonging to Captain Thomas Spencer. His neat cottage of Puaeo, on the rise beyond the sugar mill, in its quiet simplicity rose in the centre of his four hundred acres of cane now in cultivation. The cane was green and vigorous in its growth, and some of it the heaviest and finest we have seen on the Islands. A count of one of the rows showed two hundred canes in 46 feet; they were large, long and growing rapidly. We do not think there is a more valuable plantation in Hawaii. It lies adjoining Hilo, is well watered, exceedingly fertile, with a fine landing, facilities for fluming the cane from any part of the plantation to the mill, with abundance of wood and 3,000 acres of land, the most of it capable of producing sugar cane.

Northward on the coast adjoining Anauulu, is the Kaimuki Plantation of Melchers & Co. This is also finely situated, the cane flourishing, green and vigorous, abundance of water and all the facilities necessary to make a good plantation. Adjoining this is the Chinese Sugar Plantation of Chung Hoon & Co., which seems to be doing well and the cane looks thrifty. Beyond this is the flourishing plantation of Onomea, of Messrs. Austin & Co. We do not know of a more beautiful plantation, and one that promises a richer reward for the capital and labor bestowed on its cultivation. Dim in the distance beyond this, the Metcalf Sugar Plantation and the rising hills bound twenty-five.

There are also nine native common schools, including Waikae and Onomea. So it will be perceived that the rising generation is not without ample means of education. There are in Hilo eight retail commercial houses, with a large supply of dry goods and groceries. Conspicuous among these, are the stores of Captain Thomas Spencer and J. H. Coney, Esq. These gentlemen, besides a general assortment of merchandise, have everything for the accommodation of whalers and other vessels; Captain Spencer has quite an assortment in the ship chandlery line. Chung Hoon & Co. have also an extensive establishment, and there are several Chinese houses, which do a large business. Our friend Mr. Mills, besides being a naturalist, with the finest and largest specimens of native birds we have seen in the islands, has a well assorted retail store of dry goods and groceries. The American Consul, Captain Worth, has also a general supply, in a very advantageous position, fronting the anchorage in the bay. Besides the supplies furnished the shipping, there is an extensive trade with the districts of Puna and Kau, as also the districts of Hilo and Hanalei, as far as Kohala. If there were good roads and facilities for traveling were greater, the trade that would centre in Hilo, would be much more extensive.

There is an iron foundry, where excellent work is turned out by Messrs. Lidgate & Co.; also a turning lathe where among various useful utensils, pot bowls are manufactured of an excellent kind from the pride of China, which grows large and plentiful around Hilo; and also from the yellow and more solid wood of the breadfruit tree. There are two saw mills, a lumber yard, a picture gallery, blacksmiths and shoemakers' shops, a bakery, a butchery where splendid beef is supplied, and many a liquor shop or barber pole. We have the proud satisfaction of saying that in three weeks' sojourn we saw no resident of Hilo drunk. There is one physician in Hilo, Dr. Wetmore, who seems to be practicing his profession with much assiduity, honesty of purpose and perseverance. He has also an ample drug store. There are no licensed lawyers, but several aspirants to that honor. They are the express limbs of the law, without the trunk. The Judges are rather juvenile and somewhat jejune—judicial proceedings spasmodic.

The history of Hilo is lost in the clouds of tradition. It was anciently the seat of sovereign power in the District of the same name, and continued to be until after the death of Keoua, its last sovereign, when the whole island was governed by Kamehameha I. Its former population was much greater than it is now, although there are fewer evidences of a dense population in ancient times than in any other portion of the Hawaiian Islands. Indeed, we did not see an ancient temple, or any of those grand works of the old natives, which are seen in Kona and Kohala. The harbor of Hilo, with little expense, could be made one of the safest and most commodious in the Pacific. By constructing a break-water on the reef, northward from the point beyond Waiakoa, the harbor would be perfectly safe, landlocked and sheltered at all times. This could be easily effected by building a tram rail-way, and by means of cars, which could transport the abundant hard, volcanic material near at hand, upon the reef. It is but a short distance to immense beds of basaltic, vitreous and vesicular

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